

**AMENDMENTS**

**In the Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:  
a holding portion holding obtained image data;  
an image-related information producing portion producing image-related information related to said image data, said image-related information including attribute information of said image data;  
an accepting portion accepting designation of a destination of said image-related information to be sent;  
a sending portion sending said image-related information to an external device at said designated destination;  
a receiving portion receiving output form instruction information from said external device, the output form instruction information including an instruction relating to an output form of said image data and being specified by said image-related information; and  
an image forming portion forming image data for output from said image data held by said holding portion based on said output form instruction information.
2. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said image-related information producing portion produces the image-related information including an abbreviated image prepared from at least a part of said image data.
3. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said receiving portion receives, as an output form, said output form instruction information instructing either print output of said image data or sending output of said image data to another device.
4. (Original) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein  
said image data is obtained by scanning each of documents forming a document group,

said image-related information producing portion produces said image-related information for each of said documents, and

said receiving portion receives said output form instruction information instructing an output form of each of said documents.

5. (Previously Presented) An image forming apparatus comprising:

a holding portion holding obtained image data;

an operation portion accepting a user input designating an external device as a sending destination of an abbreviated image to be prepared from said image data;

a receiving portion receiving a setting from the external device, said setting being related to said abbreviated image;

an abbreviated image producing portion producing said abbreviated image by using at least a part of said image data based on said received setting; and

a sending portion sending said produced abbreviated image to said external device.

6. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

said ~~accepting~~ receiving portion ~~accepts~~ receives said setting designating at least one of a resolution of said abbreviated image, a color of said abbreviated image, a data format of said abbreviated image and a region of said image data to be used for producing said abbreviated image.

7. (Currently Amended) The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein

said setting ~~accepted~~ received by said ~~accepting~~ receiving portion from said external device designates at least one of change of said abbreviated image and resending of said abbreviated image.

8. (Previously Presented) An image forming method comprising:

a storing step of storing obtained image data in a storage device by an image forming apparatus;

an image-related information producing step of producing image-related information related to said image data in said image forming apparatus, said image-related information including attribute information of said image data;

a designating step of designating to said image forming apparatus, a destination of said image-related information to be sent;

an image-related information sending step of sending said image-related information to an image managing apparatus at the designated destination from said image forming apparatus;

an image-related information displaying step of displaying, in said image managing apparatus, the image-related information received from said image forming apparatus;

an output form instruction information producing step of producing, in said image managing apparatus, output form instruction information, the output form instruction information including an instruction relating to an output form of said image data and being specified by said image-related information;

an output form instruction information sending step of sending said produced output form instruction information from said image managing apparatus to said image forming apparatus; and

an image forming step of forming image data for output from said image data stored in said storage device based on said output form instruction information received from the image managing apparatus.

9. (Previously Presented) An image forming method comprising:

a storing step of storing obtained image data in a storage device by an image forming apparatus;

accepting step of accepting a user input via an operation portion of the image forming apparatus, the user input designating an image managing apparatus as a sending destination of an abbreviated image to be produced from said image data on the image forming apparatus;

a setting step of effecting a setting related to the abbreviated image to be produced by the image managing apparatus;

a transmitting step of transmitting said setting from said image managing apparatus to said image forming apparatus;

an abbreviated image producing step of producing, in said image forming apparatus, said abbreviated image by using at least a part of said image data based on said transmitted setting; and

a sending step of sending said abbreviated image from said image forming apparatus to said image managing apparatus.

10. (Previously Presented) An image forming method comprising:

a storing step of storing obtained image data in a storage device by an image forming apparatus;

an accepting step of accepting a user input via an operation portion of the image forming apparatus, the user input designating an image managing apparatus as a sending destination of an abbreviated image to be produced from said image data on the image forming apparatus;

a first abbreviated image producing and sending step of producing a first abbreviated image by using at least a part of said image data, and sending said first abbreviated image from said image forming apparatus to the image managing apparatus;

an instructing step of sending an instruction related to said first abbreviated image from said image managing apparatus to said image forming apparatus; and

a second abbreviated image producing and sending step of producing, in said image forming apparatus, a second abbreviated image to be substituted for said first abbreviated image by using at least a part of said image data based on said instruction, and sending said second abbreviated image.

11. (Previously Presented) An image managing apparatus comprising:

a receiving portion receiving image-related information related to image data from an image forming apparatus, said image-related information including attribute information of said image data;

a display portion displaying said image-related information;

an output form instruction information producing portion producing output form instruction information including an instruction relating to an output form of said image data held in said image forming apparatus; and

a sending portion sending said output form instruction information to the image forming apparatus.

12. (Original) The image managing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

said image-related information includes an abbreviated image prepared from at least a part of the image data,

said display portion displays at least said abbreviated image, and

said image managing apparatus further comprises an accepting portion accepting an instruction operation using said abbreviated image and performed by a user for an output form.

13. (Original) The image managing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

said output form instruction information producing portion produces, as said output form, the output form instruction information instructing either print output of said image data or sending output of said image data to another device.

14. (Original) The image managing apparatus according to claim 11, wherein

said image data is obtained by scanning each of documents forming a document group,

said image-related information received from said image forming apparatus includes the image-related information for each of said documents, and

said output form instruction information producing portion produces said output form instruction information instructing an output form of each of said documents.

15. (Previously Presented) An image managing apparatus comprising:

a receiving portion receiving an abbreviated image produced by using at least a part of image data from an image forming apparatus; and

a sending portion sending instruction information providing an instruction related to reproduction of an abbreviated image concerning said abbreviated image to said image forming apparatus,

said receiving portion receiving again an abbreviated image reproduced at the image forming apparatus in compliance with the instruction information sent from the image managing apparatus to the image forming apparatus;

said sending portion sending output form instruction information including an instruction relating to an output from of said image data held in said image forming apparatus.

16. (Original) The image managing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein

said instruction related to the abbreviated image instructs at least one of change of said abbreviated image and resending of said abbreviated image.

17. (Original) The image managing apparatus according to claim 15, wherein

said instruction related to the abbreviated image instructs at least one of a resolution of said abbreviated image, a color of said abbreviated image, a data format of said abbreviated image and a region of said image data to be used for producing said abbreviated image.

18. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the image-related information comprises color information of the image data.

19. (New) The image forming apparatus according to claim 5, wherein the operation portion comprises a user interface provided on the image forming apparatus that accepts the user input designating the external device.